

Saint John Fisher Justice and Peace Group

<http://www.sjf-justiceandpeace.org.uk/>

Minutes of meeting: 10th January 2017 at 8:00pm

Venue: 30 Eastway

Present: Sandra & Mike Carolan, Viera Hamid, Peter Nash, Gloria Paszek, Teresa Pollard, Beryl Shannon, Julie Sheahan,

Apologies: Fr. Matthias, Barbara Harnett, Liam Harnett, Hazel Pucino,

We welcomed Gloria to the group.

Meditation: Peter read us from Psalm 146 with accompanying photos of the very poor in Africa. This was food for thought and for discussion.

Louise Casey report/Oath of Allegiance: Peter had written to Stephen Hammond (MP for most of us) concerning his worries that the Oath of Allegiance might include commitment to Abortion and Gay Marriage. He had been assured the oath would not include such issues. Now it seems Louise Casey is labelling Catholic schools "homophobic" because they do not promote Gay Marriage. We should all write to our MPs expressing our concern about this. Peter will forward to all members the information he has.

All should read the summary of the report, attached again. We will discuss relevant parts at future meetings.

Peace Service: This went very well. Many thanks to Father Matthias for leading it beautifully. It was lovely to involve every generation, the help of the children was a delight.

Food Collection: The response to this weekend's food collection was slightly less than usual, possibly because it came after the Christmas break. The next collection on 4/5th February will be for the Foodbank.

Stamps: The box for used stamps has been well used and Teresa has a large bagful to take to Jesuit Missions. Father David has agreed that the box may be left at the back of the Church permanently.

Ethical actions: We agreed the following:

February: Avoid Food Waste: Find recipes for using leftovers

March: Add another Fairtrade item to your shopping

April: Buy Fairtrade Easter eggs.

We also discussed the possibility of making our own Easter eggs and promoting this through Talkabout. Sandra will investigate the possibility of buying moulds.

Fairtrade Fortnight: 27 February – 12 March: Sandra will check who can offer a sale so that we can set something up during the fortnight.

Charity of the Year 2017: We agreed to support Merton Against Trafficking (**MAT**) this year. They have agreed to send information to Beryl, which she will write up for Talkabout. Peter also mentioned Hope for Justice, who campaign on the same issue and are supported by Morden Baptist Church. We will try to promote them as well.

Merton Priory Peace Centre: Peter is waiting to hear from Fr. David when he and others can meet to present the project. He will try to catch Fr. David or Deacon Tom to pursue this. Beryl will follow up with the Deanery group, the possibility of Peter speaking to them

Treasurer's report: Sandra gave Julie £15 for Peace Service refreshments.

Any Other Business: Teresa mentioned the petition for the life of Fr Tom, an Indian priest taken prisoner by ISIS in Aden and who is threatened with execution. Julie will forward the petition information to members.

Marie Bullard has agreed to send us copies of the Justice and Peace leaflet.

Next meeting: Tuesday 14th February 2017 at 8.00 pm
Venue: 30 Eastway

Meditation: Beryl

We thanked Sandra and Mike for their warm hospitality.